

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-4, 8-11, and 15-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102, and claims 5, 12, 18; 6, 13, 19; and 7, 14, and 20 have been objected to but would be allowable if they are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. In response, Applicant is amending claims 1, 8 and 15, canceling claims 6, 7, 13, 14, 19, and 20, and adding claim 21. Applicant is also submitting a new Abstract as the previously submitted Abstract has been objected to. Applicant respectfully submits that all pending and added claims present subject matter that is patentable over the prior art of record, and, in view of the above amendments and following remarks, requests that the Examiner reconsider the application.

THE ABSTRACT

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Abstract because it exceeded 150 words. In response, Applicant is submitting a new Abstract to replace the previously submitted Abstract. The new Abstract includes less than 150 words.

CLAIM REJECTIONS AND OBJECTIONS

In paragraphs 2-7, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 8-11, and 15-17, and objected to claims 5, 12, 18; 6, 13, 19; and 7, 14, 20 as being dependent on a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner would allow the objected-to claims if they are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding the set of claims 1 and its dependent claims, Applicant is canceling claims 6 and 7, and adding the features of these claims to claim 1. Applicant is also

adding another feature, and, as a result, claim 1 now includes the following limitations:

wherein the criteria for early retirement is met when at least one of the following conditions is met: continued processing of the instruction does not change the architectural state of the system processing the instruction; continued processing of the instruction has no effect on the behavior of a program running the instruction; the instruction has completed its function without completing its full pipeline

As the Examiner stated in paragraphs 6 and 7 regarding the features in claim 6 and 7 that are now in claim 1, none of the prior art of record teaches the requirement that the criteria for early retirement is met when continued processing of the instruction (to be retired) does not change the architectural state of the system processing the instruction. Nor does the prior art of record teach that continued processing of the instruction has no effect on the behavior of a program running the instruction.

Further, Applicant submits that the prior art of record does not teach that the criteria for early retirement is met when the instruction has completed its function without completing its full pipeline.

Because claim 1 recites limitations patentably distinguished from the prior art of record, claim 1 is patentable.

Claims 2-5 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 2-5 are also patentable for their additional limitations.

Claims 8 and 15 recite limitations corresponding to claim 1, and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 9-12 and 16-18 depend directly or indirectly from claim 8 and 15, respectively, and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 8 or 15. Claims 9-12 and 16-18 are also patentable for their additional limitations.

ADDED CLAIMS

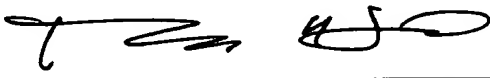
Applicant is adding claims 21 that depends from claim 15. Therefore, claim 21 is patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 15. Claim 21 is also patentable for its additional limitations. Applicant respectfully submits that limitations in claim 21 are supported in the Specification, and therefore no new matter is added. In fact, added claim 21 recites limitations corresponding to claims 3 and 10.

SUMMARY

In conclusion, Applicant respectfully submits that pending and added claims 1-21 clearly present subject matter that is patentable over the prior art of record, and therefore requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of the pending claims, consider the added claims, and pass the application to issue. If the Examiner has questions regarding this case, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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